

## PATENT CLAIMS

1. A roller/foot device (1), characterised in that it comprises
- a cylindrical outer sleeve (10) with one end completely or partly closed (13) by an end surface and one open (17) end, where the outer sleeve's inner wall(s) comprise first elongated ribs (11), which extend in the outer sleeve's longitudinal direction with inclined end portions (15) with a step (16) and which are arranged in parallel with grooves between round the circumference of the sleeve (10),
  - a guide sleeve (20) arranged inside the outer sleeve (10) where the guide sleeve's outer wall comprises second ribs (21) where the width of the second ribs is equal to or less than the grooves between the first ribs (11) and which have end portions comprising at least one inclined surface (22,23) and grooves (24) between the ribs (21) which similarly have end portions with at least one inclined surface (26,27),
  - a locking sleeve (30) arranged inside the outer sleeve (10) where the outside of the locking sleeve comprises third ribs (31) with the same width and arranged at the same distance apart as the second ribs (21) in the guide sleeve (20), and which have inclined end portions (32) at an angle which is adapted to the first ribs' inclined end portions (15) and which abut against the second ribs' end portions (22),
  - a spring device where one end abuts against the outer sleeve's closed end (13) and the other end abuts against one end portion of the guide sleeve or the locking sleeve,
  - a roller element (41) which is rotatably mounted abutting against the locking sleeve's (20) end portion located at the extreme end of the outer sleeve (10),  
*with the result that*
  - when the roller element (41) is subjected to a force that acts inwardly in the outer sleeve (10), the spring device will exert a counterforce which presses the roller element (41) towards the outer sleeve's open end,
  - when the force that acts inwardly in the outer sleeve is sufficiently great (greater than the force from the spring device),
  - the second ribs (21) on the guide sleeve will slide in the longitudinal direction in the grooves on the outer sleeve (10),
  - the end portions (32) of the third ribs will slide towards the end portions (15) of the first ribs, thus generating a movement of the locking sleeve (30) in the circumferential direction, the movement in the circumferential direction being stopped by the third ribs (31) abutting against the steps (16) on the first ribs' end surfaces (15) in a position where the roller element (41) is in its first position, or against the first ribs' (11) side walls in a second position where the roller element (41) is in its second position, depending on the roller element's initial position,
  - when the force acting inwardly in the outer sleeve (10) is less than the force from the spring device, the roller element is pressed into its outer, third position and
  - when the roller element (41) is subjected to repeated forces in the inward

direction, the roller element will assume a sequence of positions in the outer sleeve's longitudinal direction, where the roller element in the first position protrudes from the outer sleeve and in the second position is completely inside the outer sleeve.

- 5        2.        A roller device according to claim 1,  
characterised in that it further comprises several ball bearings and a locking ring  
and that  
- the locking sleeve is provided with a cup-shaped recess in the end facing out  
towards the outer sleeve's open end, the recess being adapted to receive the ball  
10        bearings and the roller element, and  
- the locking ring is designed to be able to be clamped into the locking sleeve so  
that the ball bearings and the roller element are held against the recess in the  
locking sleeve.
- 15        3.        A roller device according to claim 1,  
characterised in that it further comprises a bearing ring which is adapted to fit  
between the locking ring and the ball bearings.
- 20        4.        A roller device according to claim 3,  
characterised in that the bearing ring comprises at least one spring mechanism such  
as, e.g. flexible teeth.
- 25        5.        A roller device according to claim 1,  
characterised in that the end portions of the second ribs on the guide sleeve  
comprise two inclined surfaces.
6.        A roller device according to claim 1,  
characterised in that the roller element is made of a soft/flexible material  
surrounded by a harder material.
7.        A roller device according to claim 1,  
characterised in that the outer sleeve also comprises tension devices for attachment  
to a piece of furniture.
- 30        8.        A roller device according to claim 1,  
characterised in that a protective pad is provided on the outer sleeve's outer edge.
9.        A roller device according to claim 8,  
characterised in that the pad is doughnut-shaped with an outer diameter equal to or  
larger than the outer sleeve's outer diameter.